

COBBETT'S WEEKLY POLITICAL REGISTER.

Vol. XIV. No. 1.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1808.

[PRICE 10d.]

"I would have no expeditions against the Americans. I would securely stop their holes, and leave them to quarrel and fight amongst themselves, which they would soon infallibly do."—POLITICAL REGISTER, Vol. XIII. p. 81.

SUMMARY OF POLITICS.

AMERICAN STATES.—On the 24th instant, Mr. WHITBREAD made, in the House of Commons, a speech, which formed a sort of recapitulation of the subjects of debate during the session, which is now upon the point of closing. Amongst other topics, he revived that of the dispute with the American States. "With respect to America," said he, "I wish to know, as far as it can be disclosed with discretion, what is the real situation in which the British and the American governments stand with regard to each other. If, Sir, I may trust that channel of information which is alike open to every man, the public papers, I see that Congress has been prorogued for the session, but that the embargo still continues. Thus it appears, that one of the effects anticipated from the Orders in Council has failed. England holds out; America holds out; nor does there appear any probability of a relaxation on the part of the latter."—Mr. CANNING's answer was as follows. "Nearly all that has passed, between this country and America, the house and the public have been put in possession of by the publication of the American government. I presume that the hon. gent. does not intend to blame his majesty's ministers for not having made similar communications to parliament; for if he had thought such communications necessary, he would doubtless have moved for them. Without censuring their production by the American government, his majesty's ministers have felt that the transaction, being pending, any appeal from government to parliament would look as if it were concluded. I shall only state, that in the whole conduct of the British government, with respect to the affair of the *Chesapeake*, we have endeavoured to keep in view the principle upon which we set out; namely, to make ample reparation for that which was decidedly a wrong act; but to make that reparation upon a firm determination not to surren-

der a right which the great majority of the country has ever considered as essential to its dearest interests. Sir, I may boldly appeal to the country to determine whether from the correspondence on the table of the house any such disposition on the part of his majesty's ministers has appeared through the whole transaction. That the rupture of the negotiation on this subject was not attended with any hostile feeling on either side, is an incontrovertible truth. The reparation was not accepted by America, because America would not fulfil the condition on which alone it was tendered, namely, the revocation of that proclamation by which British ships were not allowed to enter the harbours of America, while those of the enemy visited them at pleasure. But, sir, the manner in which the British reparation was tendered to America by a special mission, was, to all the feelings of nice honour, an effective reparation, although not accepted; and so in fact we have every reason to believe that it was considered by the American government. With respect, sir, to the embargo, and to the probable effects of the Orders in Council in producing its abandonment, the hon. gent. has misstated my right hon. friend's propositions. The hon. gent. declares my right hon. friend to have predicted, that the Orders in Council would do away the embargo, whereas my hon. friend only argued in opposition to the hon. gentlemen on the other side, that the Orders in Council did not produce the embargo; that they were not substantively known in America when the embargo took place; and that they were not included in the complaint made by the American government to Congress, on which complaint the embargo was founded. Nor, sir, do I think that the Orders in Council themselves could have produced any irritation in America. If I were not disposed on this occasion to avoid making any observations that might be suspected of a party feeling, I would say, that I do think

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" irritation in America may have been produced by the echo of the discussions in this house. Sir, since the return of Mr. Rose, no communication has been made by the American government, in the form of complaint, or remonstrance, or irritation, or of any description whatever. I mention this particularly, because it is notorious that there have been several arrivals from America, supposed to be of great importance, and that several special messengers have reached this country from thence, after having touched at France. But, sir, if the hon. gent. in the execution of his public duty had thought fit to move for any communications that had been made by the American government since the departure of Mr. Rose, my answer must have been, not that his majesty's government were disinclined to make them, but that absolutely there were none to make. If it be asked "why?" I am unable satisfactorily to reply. I can only conjecture that America has entered into negotiations with France which are expected to lead to some result, and that the communications of America to this country are to be contingent on that result.—This, sir, is conjecture alone, but it is founded on the extraordinary circumstance of so many arrivals without any communication. It cannot be expected of me, that I should state prospectively, what are the views of his majesty's government on this subject. The principle by which they have hitherto been guided, they will continue invariably to contemplate. They attach as much value to the restoration, and to the continuance of cordiality, and perfect good understanding with America, as any man can do; they are ready to purchase that advantage by every justifiable conciliation; they have proved that readiness by the act of the present session, in which the trade of America has been placed on the most favourable footing; but, Sir, they are not ready to purchase that advantage, great as they acknowledge it, at the price of the surrender of those rights, on which the naval power and preponderance of Great Britain is immutably fixed."—The first thing to be noticed here is, the mild and friendly manner, in which the honourable gentlemen address one another. The trial is over; the cause is decided for this time; the wrangling for place is, for a while suspended; and, therefore, like two "I earned friends," at the bar, the parties shake

hands, while the poor people stand astounded at the sight. The *outs* have, too, found, that violence is quite unavailing; they have in vain endeavoured to convince the nation, that their being restored to place is necessary to its safety; the nation finds the Duke of Portland to be full as able a prime minister as Lord Grenville was; they see exactly the same transactions a-foot; they see no difference in any respect whatever; whether they turn their eyes towards elections, towards the courts of justice, towards the army affairs, towards the treasury, towards the taxing system, towards the Red-Book, towards the divers committees of inquiry and the divers boards of commissioners; whichever way they look, not the least difference do they see; all goes on full as well, and quite as much to the advantage and credit of the kingdom, under the Duke of Portland as under my Lord Grenville, nay, as under "the great man, now no more," or either of the great men, now no more. The nation, therefore, has been insensible to all the earnest and pathetic appeals, made to it by the *outs*, who, luckily for us, have, and recently too, had an opportunity of shewing what they do when *in*. Discovering this has made the *outs* more mild. It has taken the edge off their attacks; and, as a last shift, they appear to have formed a plan for dividing their opponents. They lose no opportunity of paying their court to Mr. Canning, whom they evidently suspect to be hated by no small number of those whom he sometimes calls his honourable friends; and, Mr. Canning, on his part appears to be rather more than usually civil to the opposition. There can be no doubt I think, that the making of the Duke of Portland premier must have been chiefly his work. His associates cannot do without him. He is most luckily situated; and, as things stand, may, and, I dare say, will carve for himself.—I should not be at all surprized, if a new session of parliament should discover to us that party intrigue has not been neglected during the recess. Let those, therefore, who are in possession of the good things, down to the very doorkeepers, make hay while the sun shines. One little twist may jerk them out, and lay them sprawling, like worms ejected by an emetic. Let them make haste to be rich; for, if the Whigs should once more get into the carcase, all the drugs in the world will again open them. There is no potion yet discovered by man, that will be found strong enough to stir them. They will live and die with the body. Let no-popery look to it; for,

the Whigs once more worn themselves into power, they will beat the grand apostate, old father Brute, in crying out danger to the Church. Mr. Canning holds the key, by the aid of which they hope to re-enter the paradise of place. His colleagues obviously are afraid of him, and yet they dare not openly avow their fears. It is a strange thing, that the opposition, consisting of men of great family and fortune, or, at least, many of them, should condescend to wheedle Mr. Canning; but, courtiers, like common soldiers, measure every man's worth by the standard of power.—Begging the reader's pardon for having led him through this digression, I return to my subject.—Mr. Whitbread says, that “we have held out, and the Americans have held out.” Which is as much as to say, that it is yet a matter of doubt, *which country will hold out longest*. But, the American newspapers, of which I have some now before me, clearly convince me, that, if they attempt to hold out for the whole year, their Federal government will be overturned. Discontents have prevailed from the day the embargo was imposed; and now, as the reader will see, they have proceeded so far, in one place, as to call for a proclamation from the President. Upon the Mississippi, that is to say, in the Western States, the authority of the Federal Government has been completely set at defiance. In the New England States, the newspapers very coolly propose a *separation* of those States from the Southern States; and, unless Jefferson and his party be ousted at the next election, this separation, which has been talked of for years, will most assuredly take place. I will now insert the proclamation above-mentioned, adding what may be necessary to give to my readers in general a correct notion of the present state of the country. “Whereas information has been received that sundry persons are combined or combining and confederating together on Lake Champlain and the country thereto adjacent for the purposes of forming insurrections against the authority of the laws of the United States, for opposing the same and obstructing their execution; and that such combinations are too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings, or by the powers vested in the marshals by the laws of the United States.—Now, therefore, to the end, that the authority of the laws may be maintained, and that those concerned directly or indirectly in any insurrection or combination against the same, may be duly warned, I have issued this my pro-

clamation, hereby commanding such insurgents, and all concerned in such combinations, instantly and without delay to disperse and retire peaceably to their respective abodes. And I do hereby further require and command all officers having authority, civil or military, who shall be found within the vicinage of such insurrections or combinations, to be aiding and assisting, by all the means in their power, by force of arms, or otherwise, to quell and subdue such insurrections or combinations, to seize upon all those therein concerned, who shall not instantly and without delay disperse and retire to their respective abodes, and to deliver them over to the civil authority of the place, to be proceeded against according to law.”—This *must* be the case. The government has no authority in those distant parts, except merely in name. Mr. Thos. Jefferson now begins to find, that his partiality for France will be tolerated only as long as it does not manifestly injure the people. The people know, that the embargo arose out of the president's hatred of England. This they know full well, and, all its numerous embarrassments they will impute to him. They will forget their own prejudices and violence; they will forget, that their malignant clamour emboldened him to do what he has done; they will make him the scape goat; they will send him from his offices with an universal hiss.—It appears, from these newspapers, that the elections are running against the French party. Here a little explanation is necessary. The President is elected every *four* years, the election taking place in the autumn and he entering upon his office in the ensuing month of March. But, the elections for the Senate and the House of Representatives take place oftener; it appears that some of these elections were going on in April, and that, as far as they had gone, they clearly indicated a change in favour of a resistance of French politics and French influence. This change, if it be such as is anticipated, will, at once, put an end to all the disputes with England, and may lead to consequences the most pleasing and most important. The events in Spain, the abdication on the part of the Bourbons, and the assumption on the part of Napoleon, will, unless the Americans are quite mad, have great weight in producing this desired effect; for extensive as their country is, they will not be safe an hour, *without our assistance*, if Napoleon take possession of Spanish America. In the mean while, it is evident, from letters sent by the Secretary of the Treasury, to

the several ports, that the Embargo-law has been evaded, th at numerous vessels have sailed out laden with lumber and provisions, and that, in short, the law is obeyed by those only, who are unable to stand the risk of disobedience. This was to be expected. There are no threats that will prevent it. The government has not the power of making itself obeyed against the interests of so large a portion of the community. Where are now the grounds of that alarm for the supplying of our West India islands, which Mr. A. B. (or Alexander Baring) of the *Morning Chronicle* so pathetically laid before us? I should not be surprized if our West India colonies were now better supplied than ever; because the American ships are now prevented from going to our enemies' colonies.—The people in Vermont carry on a trade, across Lake Champlain, with Canada. They have set the Embargo-law at defiance; they still carry on the trade, and carry it on they will in spite of ten thousand proclamations from Thomas Jefferson. In the Western States, it is said, that the government gun-boats have been burnt, and the militia beaten. All this, the reader will recollect, I said would be the case. I said it till I was afraid my readers would be wearied with the repetition; but Mr. Alexander Baring and his set dwelt so strongly upon the dangers of a prohibition of trade on the part of America, that I was obliged to repeat it. It is worthy of observation, too, that the very States, which have now risen in opposition to the French party, are those which, until now, were most decidedly in favour of that party.—How often have I said, that the Federal Government could not exist a year under the effect of a prohibition of trade with England and her territories? The trade is, in fact, *now carried on*. It was stated in Congress, just before it adjourned, that *a hundred thousand barrels* of flour had been smuggled from the single port of Baltimore. What has been done, then, from Philadelphia, New York, and Boston? In fact, the law is nearly a dead letter; and I said it would be so. It must be so, *or the government must fall*. I told the Americans, a thousand times, that, if ever they should be fools enough to *try their strength* against England, their weakness would be exposed to the whole world. They would not believe me. They would insist, that they were a *great* nation; that England was dependant upon them; that they could starve England; and now we see the result of the attempt. There has, it seems, been warm work in the Congress. Blackguarding and black eyes. This is

the natural consequence of a state of embarrassment. They do not know who to blame but themselves. Like Lucifer and his crew, they fall to abusing one another. This blackguarding is, however, by no means the worst sign. It shews, that the combatants are *sincere*, at least. I would much rather hear them call one another rogues and traitors and sycophants, than hear them palavering with "*honourable gentleman*," and "*learned friend*," and the like, which would sicken one to death. I would much rather see an angry debate conclude with a fight, or even with a gonging bout, than see the anger all laid aside with the discussion, and the combatants shaking hands and laughing at the folly of their clients. A smooth smiling rogue is the worst of rogues, and when this "*gentlemanly*" sort of rogues get possession of power, they seldom let go their hold while there is any thing to be got. I, for my part, hate *sham* fights, in the senate as well as in the field. It is villainous to talk as if you were in earnest, and be in jest all the while; to express the greatest anxiety about what is a matter of indifference to you; to act the mere pleader, nay, the player, in discussions involving the well-being of millions of men. —The way that the American States will get out of their embarrassment, with respect to us, will, I should think, be this: Mr. Thomas Jefferson and his party will be ousted, and then, the new president will disclaim all their hostile acts. Should this be the case, we shall go on harmoniously for the future; and, I think, that the Americans (especially if Napoleon succeed in Spain) will not be long before they join us against France. That this may be the case, I heartily wish; but, I am sure, it never will be, if *we* make the first movements towards it.

SPANISH REVOLUTION.—A very great part of this sheet is devoted to the documents relating to this great event. They are regularly arranged, and will hereafter be found very useful. They exhibit the parties in their true colours, and most black some of them appear.—In some papers of a more recent date, but not official, it is stated, that the Queen of Spain has openly declared her eldest son to be the fruit of an unlawful amour: in plain words, that he is a *bastard* and she a *whore*! And yet, I'll warrant you, that girls in Spain used to do penance for having bastards. Well, Ferdinand has the consolation of knowing, that he is not the *only* bastard fruit of a royal mother. It might be somewhat indelicate to investigate such matters; but history informs us of a

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great many bastards, female as well as male, who have put forward their pretensions to a crown; and, the worst of it is, we find that nations, that millions of men, have ranged themselves on different sides, have vexed, harrassed, lacerated, and killed one another, in disputes and wars about the *honour* of such bastardized gentry. This species of madness is, however, at an end, I hope. I do not think that any people could now be found to cut one another's throats for the sake of maintaining the pretended rights of a bastard girl or boy. In this respect, the world is certainly grown wiser than it was. What a shocking thing it would be to see a whole nation involved in confusion; to see it desolated; to see the people (wise and virtuous people too) stained with each other's blood, and all this in consequence of the freaks of a woman, who, perhaps, might owe it merely to her dignity of place, that she was not found amongst her coarse-skinned and big-mouthed sisters, in the rear ranks of the stews. Mind, reader, I have been speaking here merely upon the *supposition* that the account of the late Queen of Spain's declaration be true; for, as to myself, I cannot suffer the belief of the fact to enter my mind. *Princes*, indeed, not only have bastards, sometimes, but *boast* of them, and not unfrequently when it is pretty well known, that they are *perfectly innocent of the guilt they so generously assume*. To see a Prince with a troop of bastards, whether his own or not, at his heels, would be no very seemly sight, especially while bastardizing is held to be criminal in the people. But, for a *Queen*, reigning "by the grace of God," or for a gracious *Princess*, to have a bastard, is not to be believed, though averred by half a score of witnesses, the single oath of either of whom would hang a hundred forgers or coiners.—If the account be true, which has been given of the conduct of the Queen of Spain, her royal husband seems to have acted a very amiable part. He must be, upon this supposition, what POPE calls "a well-bred cuckold." The good man said not a word, which, though *not without an example*, perhaps, is certainly worthy of imitation amongst all "gentlemanly" husbands, whose fate bears a resemblance to his.—Turning now to the *Patriots* of Spain, there really does appear to be some prospect of their final success. There seems to be a general spirit of resistance against France. The language of the several addresses is that of men *resolved*. All this noble spirit lay smothered under the incubus of despotism. That removed, up it bounds with the quickness

of lightning. Lightning, forked lightning, may it prove to all those, be they who they may or where they may, who would wish again to smother it! And yet I do fear, I greatly fear, that there are persons, and those not few or feeble, who would rather see Buonaparte slaughter the Spaniards, man, woman, and child, than see those Spaniards succeed in establishing a government upon the principles of freedom, upon the principles of the *real* constitution of England. I trust, however, that no such villains as these will obtain influence with our ministers, and prevail upon them to be suspicious and tardy in their operations for the assistance of the Patriots. This is the *only* fair opportunity that has offered for checking the progress of Napoleon. It is the only cause to which *all* the people of England have heartily wished success. In all probability it is the last opportunity that will offer for enabling us to give a turn to the long-flowing tide of success. And, if we neglect this opportunity; if we waste the precious hours, that are now given us for action, in doubts, hesitations, and delays, we, or, at least, those amongst us who shall be found to have been the cause of such conduct, ought to perish, or, which would be better, to linger out a life of misery, loaded with the curses of all good men. I know, that there is, amongst some persons, a disposition to hate Buonaparte, not on account of the hatefulness of his tyranny, but from a feeling of *envy*; and where that disposition exists, there can be no desire to assist, for any good purpose, the Patriots of Spain. "I do not like that word *patriot*," said a man (I am informed) the other day; and, I am much afraid, he is not quite singular in his taste. That taste will not, I hope, prevail. I am confident it will not become general; but, I am not quite confident that it may not do mischief.

Botley, June 30, 1803.

COBBETT'S Parliamentary History OF ENGLAND,

Which, in the compass of Sixteen Volumes, royal octavo, double columns, will contain a full and accurate Report of all the recorded Proceedings, and of all the Speeches in both Houses of Parliament, from the earliest times to the year 1803, when the publication of "Cobbett's Parliamentary Debates" commenced.

The Fourth Volume of the above work is ready for delivery. It embraces that period

of our Parliamentary History, which is, perhaps, the most interesting of any; namely, from the Restoration of Charles the Second in the year 1660, to the Revolution, in 1688. For this period, the Proceedings and Debates, in both Houses, have been, for the most part, collected from the following works: 1. The Journals of the House of Lords; 2. The Journals of the House of Commons; 3. That portion of the Parliamentary, or Constitutional History of England, which contains the proceedings of the Convention Parliament, from its meeting on the 25th of April, 1660, to its dissolution, on the 21th of December following, at which epoch the editors of this able performance conclude their labours; 4. The Life of the Earl of Clarendon, written by himself, containing some interesting Debates, in both Houses, during the period between the Restoration of the King and the banishment of the said Earl, in the year 1657, which Debates never yet found their way into any Collection; 5. The Proceedings of the House of Commons touching the Impeachment of the Earl of Clarendon, with the many Debates in that House upon the subject; 6. The Works of the celebrated Andrew Marvell, who, from 1660 to 1678, regularly transmitted to his constituents of Hull, a faithful account of each day's proceedings; 7. The Debates of the House of Commons, from 1667 to 1694, collected by the Honourable Antichell Grey, who was thirty years a member for the town of Derby; 8. The Debates in the House of Commons on the Bill of Exclusion, in the year 1680, first published in 1681, in a small duodecimo volume, and afterwards republished in 1716, and again in 1807, with the addition of the Debates in the Short Parliament held at Oxford, in the month of March, 1680-1, the proceedings of which related chiefly to the same subject, that is to say, the Exclusion of the Duke of York from the succession to the crown; 9. Timberland's History and Proceedings of the House of Lords; and, 10. Chandler's History and Proceedings of the House of Commons.—It will, doubtless, have been observed by most persons who have much attended to the matter, that, for the period from the Restoration to the year 1743 the two last mentioned works, that is to say, those of Timberland and Chandler, have hitherto been regarded as a regular and complete collection, and the only regular and complete collection, of the Proceedings in Parliament; and that, as such, they have been introduced into, and enjoyed a distinguished place in, almost every public and great private library in the kingdom. Therefore, in preparing

the present volume for the press, it might naturally have been expected, that considerable assistance would have been afforded by these works. It is, however, a remarkable fact, which may be verified by a reference to the proceedings of any single session, that very little assistance indeed has been received from them. To say the truth, a discovery of the extreme imperfectness of these works produced one of the motives which led to the present undertaking. On comparing their contents with those of the authentic works before enumerated, they were found to be so extremely defective and incorrect, that they could, in hardly any case, be relied upon with safety. In them, King's Speeches are, in numerous instances, either wholly omitted, or very much curtailed. Scarcely any of the Speeches of the different Lord Chancellors, delivered at the opening of the several Sessions, though those speeches generally contain an outline of the state of the national affairs, are preserved. The Journals appear to have been rarely consulted. Scarcely a Motion or Resolution, is given as it stands in those authentic records. Explanatory notes there are none; and, in only one or two instances have the compilers deemed it necessary to favour the reader with information as to the source, whence they have drawn their materials; which would seem, indeed, to have been moulded into the form of volumes for the mere purpose of filling up a chasm in a book-case.—Besides resorting to the above recited works, recourse has been had to the best historians, and contemporary writers. From Burnet, Echard, Kennet, Oldmixon, Rapin, North, Ralph, Marvell, Reresby, Temple, Walpole, and the Works of the late Mr. Fox, recently published many Notes, historical and biographical have been introduced; and, for the sake of connexion, a short account of the principal Occurrences, during each recess of Parliament, has, where necessary, been inserted.—By way of Appendix to this volume, is subjoined a Collection of scarce and valuable Tracts, purely parliamentary, taken from the State Tracts, privately printed in the reign of Charles II. and James II, from the Harleian Miscellany; and from the noble Collections of Lord Somers. Through these, a more lively image of the times conveyed, than could be received from any general description, from however eloquent a pen it might proceed. From their scarcity, it is impossible that they should, in their separate state, be generally known; and, as the utility of them, when accompanying the Parliamentary History of the times in which they were written, may

be manifest to every one, the compiler does certainly consider them as not the least valuable part of his work.

*** The success of this work, up to the time of publishing Vol. III. was before stated. Its success since that time has been still greater. No work of equal magnitude, had ever so great success, in so short a space of time. The fifth volume, barring accidents from illness, will be published in October, and the sixth in December; after which it is hoped, that a volume every three months will be regularly finished, until the work be concluded, or rather, brought down to the "Parliamentary Debates," which will form a sequel to it, and which will, of course, be continued, in the same manner that they now are.

*** The Tenth Volume of the PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES, including the period from the Opening of the Session, on the 21st of January, to the 9th of April, 1808, will be ready for delivery on the 10th instant. The Eleventh Volume, which will embrace the remainder of the Session, is in considerable forwardness. *It is particularly requested that all Communications for this work may be forwarded to the Publishers on or before the 15th of the present month.*

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

SPANISH REVOLUTION.—*Papers relative to the Spanish Revolution beginning with the Report made to MURAT (French Commander in Chief in Spain) by DE MONTHIQU, one of his Officers, respecting the Dethronement of the King, and the Elevation of the Prince of Asturias.*

Report, dated Aranjuez, 25th March, 1808.

Monseigneur;—Agreeably to the commands of your imperial highness, I repaired with the letter of your highness to the queen of Etruria at Aranjuez. It was 8 o'clock in the morning; the queen was still in bed; she rose immediately, and bade me enter. I delivered your letter to her. She begged me to wait a little, and said she would go and read it with the king and queen; half an hour afterwards I saw the queen of Etruria enter with the king and queen of Spain.—His majesty said, that he thanked your imperial highness for the share you had taken in his affliction, which was the greater as his own son was the author of it. The king said, that the revolution had been effected by forgery and corruption, and that the principal actors were his son and M. Cabellero, minister of justice; that he had been compelled to abdicate the throne, in order to save the lives of himself and his queen; that he knows that but

for this, they would have been murdered in the course of the night; that the conduct of the prince of Asturias was more shocking, seeing that himself (the king) having perceived his desire to reign, and being himself near 60 years of age, had agreed to surrender the crown to him, on his marriage taking place with a French princess, which the king ardently desired.—The king added to this, that the prince of Asturias was desirous that he and the queen should repair to Badajoz, on the frontiers of Portugal; that he had found means to inform him that the climate of that country did not suit him; that he begged him to permit his choosing another place; that he sought to obtain permission of the Emperor to purchase an estate in France, where he might end his days. The queen told me she had begged of her son to postpone their journey to Badajoz; that she had not procured this, and that the journey was to take place on the ensuing Monday.—At the moment I was departing from their majesties, the king said to me, "I have written to the emperor, in whose hand I repose my fate."—I wished to send my letter by a courier, but I know no surer means of sending it than by yours. The king left me then, in order to repair to his cabinet. He soon returned with the following letters (Nos. 1 and 2) in his hand, which he gave me, and added these words—"My situation is most deplorable; they have seized the prince de la Paz, and will put him to death; he has committed no other crime than that he has at all times been attached to me."—He, added, there were no efforts which he would not have attempted to save the life of his unhappy friend, but that he had found the whole world deaf to his entreaties, and bent on vengeance; that the death of the prince de la Paz would draw after it his own, and that he should not survive him.

No. I. *Letter from the King to Napoleon, 25th March, 1808.*

"Sir, my brother.—Your majesty will assuredly hear with pain of the events which have taken place at Aranjuez, and their consequences; you will not, without sympathy, see a king who has been compelled to resign his throne, throw himself into the arms of a great monarch his ally, placing every thing in his protection, who alone can fix his happiness and that of his whole family, and his trusty and beloved subjects. Under the pressure of the moment, and amid the clashing of weapons, and the cries of a rebellious guard, I found that I had to choose between my life and death, and that my

death would be followed by that of the queen: I was compelled to abdicate the throne; but to-day peace is restored, and full of confidence in the generosity and genius of the great man, who has at all times declared himself my friend, I have taken my resolution to resign myself into his hands, and await what he shall resolve on my fate, that of the queen, and of the Prince de la Paz.—I address myself to your majesty, and protest against the events which took place at Aranjuez, and against my dethronement. I rely with confidence, and altogether upon the cordiality and friendship of your majesty, praying that God may have you in his holy keeping."

No. II. *Protest of the King.*

I protest and declare, that my decree of the 19th of March, in which I renounce my crown in favour of my son, is a deed to which I was compelled, in order to prevent greater calamities, and spare the blood of my beloved subjects. It is therefore to be considered as of no authority.—(Signed)
—"I, THE KING."

Sword of Francis I. delivered up to Napoleon by the young King Ferdinand. Madrid, 5th April, 1808.

His imperial highness the grand duke of Berg, having intimated to his excellency Don Pedro Cevallos, first secretary of state, that his imperial majesty the emperor of the French and king of Italy, would be pleased in the possession of the sword that Francis I. king of France, surrendered in the famous battle of Pavia, in the reign of the emperor Charles V. in Spain, which was kept with due estimation in the royal armoury, since the year 1525, desiring that it might be thus represented to our lord the king. His maj. being informed of this, and desirous of availing himself of every opportunity to testify to his intimate ally the emperor of the French, his high regard for his august person, and the administration, his unheard-of deeds inspire him with, immediately ordered the afore-mentioned sword to be remitted to his imperial and royal maj. and thought that the most worthy and respectable channel would be his serene highness the grand duke of Berg, who was brought up by his side, and in the same school, and rendered illustrious by his prowess and military talents, and more deserving than any body to be charged with so precious a deposit, and to transmit it into the hands of his imperial majesty. In consequence thereof, and of the royal order which was given to his excellency the marquis of Astorga, groom-major to his majesty, the conveyance of the sword to the

lodgings of his imperial highness was arranged with great pomp and ceremony. *Mandate, issued by order of the new King upon his leaving Madrid to go to meet Napoleon. 8th April, 1808.*

The king our sovereign has received certain intelligence, that his faithful friend and mighty ally the emperor of the French and king of Italy is already arrived at Bayonne, with the joyful salutary purpose of passing through his kingdom, to the great satisfaction of the king, and to the notorious profit and advantage of his beloved subjects. Since it is becoming the close friendship which happily prevails between both crowns, and the great character of his imperial and royal majesty, that his majesty should go and meet him, and give the most sincere, sure, and firm proofs of his sentiments and resolution, in order to preserve and renew the good harmony, confidential friendship, and salutary alliance which has hitherto happily subsisted and ought to subsist between the two monarchs, his majesty has resolved, with the utmost expedition, to undertake the journey in order to fulfil his purpose. Since his absence can last but a few days, his majesty expects, from the love and fidelity of his dear subjects, and especially those who belong to the court, and who have hitherto conducted themselves in a laudable manner, that they will continue to remain tranquil: and while his majesty confidently relies upon the known vigilance and integrity of his ministers and courts, to whom he has for that purpose given especial directions; while his majesty especially places his confidence in the high council of the government, under the presidency of his serene highness the infant Don Antonio, and which has retained its power and authority; while his majesty hopes, what is indeed practicable, that the good harmony which subsists between the troops of the king, and those of his imperial and royal majesty will be respected, and those troops punctually supplied with every thing that may be necessary for their maintenance till the time when the object in view shall be obtained, to the great prosperity and felicity of both nations, his majesty declares his assurance, that he entertains not the least fear that the happy tranquillity, the good harmony, and the advantageous alliance which now subsists, will be destroyed or interrupted; but, on the contrary, he sees with great satisfaction that these advantages are every day fixed upon a surer basis.—This I impart to your excellency, that it may be immediately communicated to the extraordinary council, laid to heart, and publicly announced, and that

all necessary measures may be taken for its punctual execution.—May God preserve your excellency many years.—SEBASTIAN PINNUELA, President of the Council.

Decree to all the Counsellors of State.—Same Date.

Being informed that the emperor of the French and king of Italy is on the point of arriving in this our city and court of Madrid, I have deemed it expedient to go and meet his imperial majesty, in order to give a convincing proof of my reverence for his serene person, and of the strong desire which animates me to bind still closer the ties of friendship and alliance which happily subsist between this monarchy and the French empire, to the mutual advantage of both nations. Accordingly I shall depart from hence on the 10th, and repair to Burgos; and as my absence will continue but a short time, I have, considering the present circumstances, decreed and authorised, and I do hereby by this authorise my beloved uncle the infant Don Antonio, in whom I have placed my confidence, as well on account of the ties of blood which bind him to my person, as on account of the distinguished qualities with which he is endowed, that he have full power to transact and dispatch all pressing and necessary business which may occur, with the advice of my secretary of state and of the *dépêches*, which shall be communicated to my council, in order that it be carried duly into execution.

Letter from Napoleon to the new King of Spain, dated Bayonne, 16th April, 1808.

My brother;—I have received the letter of your royal highness. In the papers which you have received from the king, your highness's father, you must have found a proof of the interest which I have always felt for you. You will permit me under the present circumstances, to speak to you with truth and frankness. I wished by my journey to Madrid, to draw over my illustrious friend to some necessary amelioration of his states, and also to give a certain satisfaction to the public feelings. The removal of the Prince of Peace appeared to me to be necessary for the prosperity of his majesty and that of his subjects. The affairs of the north had retarded my journey. The events at Aranjuez took place. I pass no decision on what had previously fallen out, nor upon the conduct of the Prince of Peace; but I know well that it is dangerous for kings to accustom their people to shed blood or to seek to redress themselves. I pray God that your royal highness may never feel this by your own experience. It is not the interest of Spain to injure a prince who has married a

princess of the blood royal, and who for a long time directed the affairs of the kingdom. He no longer has any friends; your royal highness will possess them no longer than while you shall be fortunate. The people willingly revenge themselves for that homage which they pay us. How can the process be drawn up against the Prince of Peace, without involving in it the queen, and the king your father? This process would give nourishment to hatred and factious passions, the issue of which would be fatal to your crown. Your royal highness has no other right thereto than that which you derive from your mother. If this process degrade her, your royal highness destroys your own right. He who has lent an ear to weak and disloyal counsels has no right to pass sentence on the Prince of Peace. His misdeeds, if he can be reproached with them, go to destroy the rights of the crown.—I have frequently expressed a desire, that the Prince of Peace should be removed from affairs; the friendship of king Charles has often induced me to remain silent, and to turn away my eyes from the weakness of his conduct. Unhappy mortals that we were! Weakness and error, these are our mottos! But all may be arranged; namely, that the Prince of Peace should be banished from Spain, and I should invite him to a place of retirement in France. As to the abdication of king Charles IV, that has taken place at a moment when my troops were traversing Spain; and in the eyes of Europe, and of posterity, I should seem to have sent so many troops solely for the purpose of pushing from his throne my ally and friend. As a neighbour sovereign, it is fit I should know this abdication, before I acknowledge it. I say it to your royal highness, to the Spaniards, and to the whole world, if the abdication of king Charles has proceeded from his own will, if he was not driven to it by the insurrection and uproar at Aranjuez, I make no scruple to accede to it, and to acknowledge your royal highness as king of Spain. The circumspection, which I have observed for this month past, must be a security to you for the support which you shall find in me, should ever party differences disturb you, in your turn, upon the throne.—When king Charles made me acquainted with the events of last October, I was much affected by them; and I think that by my efforts the affair of the Escorial received a happy issue. Your royal highness was much to blame; I have no need of any other proof of this, than the letter which you wrote to me, and which I shall always desire to consider as not having come to me. Your royal high-

ness must distrust all popular commotions and insurrections. A few of my soldiers may be murdered, but the subjugation of Spain shall be the consequence of it. I see with pain that some persons at Madrid have disseminated certain letters of the captain-general of Catalonia, and have done every thing to excite disturbances among the people. Your royal highness perfectly comprehends my meaning. You perceive that I have touched slightly upon many points, which it would not be proper to enlarge upon.—You may be assured that I will conduct myself in every thing towards you, in the same way as to your royal father. You may rely upon my desire to arrange every thing, and of finding an opportunity of giving you proof of my perfect regard and esteem.

Letter from the old King of Spain to his Son.

Dated Bayonne, 2d May, 1808.

My Son ;—The faithless counsels of the men who surround you have brought Spain into a most distressing situation. The country cannot now be saved but by the emperor.—Since the peace of Basle, I have been always convinced, that it was the first interest of my people to preserve a good understanding with France, and I have considered no sacrifice too great to attain that object. Even when France was the prey of temporary governments, I determined to repress my own inclinations, and be guided only by a regard to sound policy and the welfare of my subjects. But when the French emperor had restored order in France, then my apprehension was in a great degree removed, so that I had then new reasons for remaining faithful to my system of alliance.—When England declared war against France, I had the good fortune to remain neutral, and thereby afford to my people the advantages of peace. England, however, soon after captured four of my frigates, and made war upon me before war was declared. Thus was I compelled to repel force by force, and the evils of war were extended to my subjects.—Spain being surrounded by coasts, and being indebted for her greatest prosperity to her trans-marine possessions, suffered more than any other country by the war. The interruption of trade, and all the evils connected with that state of affairs were experienced by my subjects, some of whom were uncandid enough to throw all the blame on me and my ministers. I had, however, at least, the consolation that the country was safe, and had no reason to be alarmed for the preservation of my provinces. At the same time, I was the only king of Europe who lived in this security, amidst the convulsions of these

latter times ; and I should still have enjoyed tranquillity, had it not been for the advice which has turned you aside from the path of duty. You have been too easily led away by the hatred which your first wife cherished against France, and you have participated in her obstinate dislike to my ministers your mother, and myself.—I resorted to the rights of a father and a king, and arrested you, when I found among your papers proofs of your guilt. But at the end of my career, about to become the prey of grief, I felt for the tears of your mother, and forgave you.—Meanwhile, my subjects were agitated by the false representations of a faction, at the head of which you placed yourself. From that moment the peace of my life was gone, and to the evils which had befallen my people, I had still to add, that distress which the disunion of my family had occasioned. Even my ministers were slandered to the emperor of the French, who, thinking he perceived that Spain wished to depart from her alliance, and seeing the disposition to disorder even in my family, occupied, under various pretexts, my states with his troops : but so long as they remained on the right side of the Ebro, and appeared destined to maintain a communication with Portugal, I still hoped that he would return to those feelings of respect and friendship which he had always testified towards me. When I learned that his troops advanced towards my capital, I felt it necessary to assemble my army around me, in order to exhibit myself to my illustrious ally in that state which became the king of Spain. Thus I expected his doubts would be removed, and my own interests adjusted. I recalled my troops from Portugal, and ordered those in Madrid to evacuate that capital, and directed them to assemble on several points of the monarchy. This was not done for the purpose of abandoning my subjects, but, on the contrary, in order to maintain more worthily the glory of the crown. My long experience convinced me that the emperor of the French, consistently with his own interests, and the extended political system of the continent, could entertain no wish prejudicial to my house. But in the meantime what was your conduct ? You threw my whole palace into confusion. You instigated my guards to turn against me. Your father was your prisoner. My prime minister, whom I had reared and adopted into my family, was dragged bleeding from dungeon to dungeon. You have disgraced my grey hairs ; you have bereft them of a crown worn with lustre by my ancestors, and which I have preserved without a stain ; you have

ascended my throne, and have put yourself into the hands of the people of Madrid, who are instigated by the numbers of your party, and of the foreign troops that have entered the city.—The conspiracy at the Escorial was accomplished, and the acts of my government were consigned to public contempt. Old, and loaded with infirmities, I could not withstand this new misfortune, and fled to the French emperor, no longer as a king at the head of his troops, and surrounded with the lustre of the throne, but as an unfortunate and abandoned prince. I have found a place of refuge and protection in the midst of his army. I am indebted to him for my life, for the life of my queen, and for that of my prime minister. I have followed you to Bayonne. You have brought affairs to such a state, that henceforth every thing must depend upon the arrangement and protection of this great prince. To have recourse to insurrections of the people, to plant the standard of faction, would be the ruin of Spain; and would reduce yourself, my kingdom, my subjects, and my family, to the greatest wretchedness. I have opened my whole heart to the emperor. He is acquainted with all the insults I have received, and the usurpation imposed upon me. He has declared to me that he will never acknowledge you as king, and that the enemy of his father can excite no confidence in the breast of a stranger. He has besides shewn me letters which contain proofs of your aversion from France.—Under these circumstances it is evidently my right, and still more evidently my duty, to spare the blood of my subjects, and not at the end of my days to adopt a course which would expose Spain to fire and sword, and reduce the country to the most wretched condition. Assuredly you ought, faithful to your duty, and to the feelings of nature, to have rejected the traitorous counsels given you. Had you constantly appeared by my side, ready for my defence, and had waited till the usual course of nature had raised you to the throne, then the political interests of Spain might have been brought to coincide with the interest of all. For these six months circumstances have been very critical; but such as they were, I should not have feared to meet them supported by the good conduct of my subjects, and even my own feeble efforts, but, above all, with the moral power which I should have possessed in proposing to my ally an arrangement calculated to reconcile the interests of my subjects and my family. In depriving me of my crown, you have broken your own in pieces; you have stripped it of all that was illustrious, of

all that rendered it sacred in the eyes of men.—But your conduct towards me, and your intercepted letters have erected a brazen wall between you and the throne of Spain. I am a king in the right of my ancestors. My abdication was a consequence of compulsion. I have, therefore, nothing to receive from you. I can consent to no meeting—I will consent to nothing that may occasion a civil war or insurrections. Every thing ought to be done for the people, but nothing by them; and to forget this principle is to make ourselves guilty of all the consequences which its neglect occasions. I have, through my whole life, sacrificed myself for my people, and, at the years at which I am arrived, I shall never do any act repugnant to their religion, their tranquillity, and their prosperity. But all my sacrifices will be forgotten whenever I am informed that the religion of Spain, the inviolability of my provinces, and their privileges and independence are secured; I shall then lie down in my grave, forgiving you all the sorrow which in my latter years you have occasioned me.—CHARLES.

Proclamation of the old King to the Spaniards. Dated at Bayonne, 4th May, 1808.

Spaniards; My beloved subjects; perfidious men seek to mislead you. They would put arms into your hands against the French troops; they seek alike to arm you against the French, and the French against you. The sacking of all Spain, calamities of every kind, would be the result. The spirit of faction, the sad effects of which I have already felt, is still in motion. In the midst of these important and critical circumstances, I am occupied in concerting with my ally, the emperor of the French, all that concerns your welfare. Beware of listening to the enemies of it. All those who speak to you against France, thirst for your blood: they are either the enemies of your nation, or agents of England, who are busily availing themselves of circumstances, and whose intrigues would involve the loss of your colonies, the separation of your provinces, or a series of years of trouble and calamity for your country.—Spaniards! trust to my experience, and obey that authority which I hold from God and my fathers; follow my example, and think that in the position in which you stand, there is no prosperity and safety for Spaniards, but in the friendship of the great emperor, our ally.—Given at Bayonne, from the imperial palace, stiled palace of the government, May 4, 1808.—I THE KING.

Declaration of Abdication of the old King. Dated, at Bayonne, 4th May, 1808.

In the present extraordinary circumstances, we have resolved to give new proof of our affection towards our beloved subjects, whose happiness, during the whole course of our reign, has been the constant object of our solicitude. We have therefore abdicated all our claims upon the Spanish kingdoms in favour of our friend and ally, the emperor of the French, by a treaty which has been signed and ratified, and which stipulates for the integrity and independence of the Spanish kingdoms, and the preservation of our holy religion, not only as predominant, but as the sole and exclusive religion of Spain.—We have therefore thought proper to send you this letter, that you should conform yourselves thereto, publish its contents, and make every exertion in support of the emperor Napoleon. Display the utmost frankness and friendship towards the French; and, above all, direct all your care to preserve the country from insurrections and tumults.—In the new condition upon which we are entering, we shall frequently turn our eyes towards you, and happy shall we be to know that you enjoy peace and contentment.—Given at the imperial palace, the 4th of May, 1808.—I THE KING.

Declaration of Abdication of the new King, (now become a Prince again) and of his Brothers. Dated, at Bourdeaux, 12th May, 1808.

Don Ferdinand, prince of Asturias, and the infants Don Carlos and Don Antonio, deeply sensible of the attachment and fidelity displayed towards them by all the Spaniards, with the utmost grief behold them on the point of being plunged into anarchy, and threatened with all the dreadful calamities consequent thereupon; and being aware that these might, in a great measure, proceed from the state of ignorance in which they now are, both as to the principles of the conduct hitherto pursued by their highnesses, and the plans already formed for the benefit of their country, their highnesses find themselves under the necessity of making an effort to open their eyes, by that salutary counsel which they require, in order to prevent any obstruction to the execution of those plans; and thus to give them the dearest proof of the affection which they cherish for them.—Their highnesses cannot, therefore, abstain from informing them, that the circumstances under which the prince, upon the abdication of the king, assumed the reins of government; the occupation of several provinces of the kingdom, and of all the frontier fortresses, by a numerous body of French troops; the actual presence of more than 60,000 of that nation in the capital and

the environs; in short, the knowledge of many other circumstances known only to themselves, convinced them that, surrounded by difficulties, they had only chosen, among various expedients, that which was likely to produce the least evil; and that, as such, they resolved upon a journey to Bayonne.—On the arrival of their royal highnesses at Bayonne, the prince, then king, was unexpectedly apprized that his father had protested against this act of abdication, declaring that it was not voluntary. The prince, who accepted the crown only under the impression that the abdication was voluntary, was no sooner informed of the existence of such a protest, than his sense of his filial duty instantly determined him to give back the throne. But a short time after, the king his father abdicated it in his own name, and that of his whole race, in favour of the emperor of the French, in order that the emperor, consulting the good of the nation, should determine the person and race which should hereafter occupy it.—Their royal highnesses, in this state of things, considering the situation in which themselves stand, and the difficult circumstances in which Spain is placed—considering that, under these circumstances, any attempt on the part of the inhabitants of Spain for the maintenance of their rights, would be not only useless but ruinous, and could tend only to make streams of blood flow, and to render certain the loss of at least a great part of her provinces, and that of her transmarine colonies:—Being farther convinced, that the most effectual means of preventing these evils, is that their royal highnesses, for themselves, and all connected with them, should assent to the renunciation of their rights to the throne,—a renunciation already executed by the king, their father; taking also into consideration, that his majesty the emperor of the French engages, in this case, to maintain complete the independence and integrity of the Spanish monarchy, and its transmarine colonies, without retaining the smallest of its dominions for himself, or separating any part from the whole; that his imperial majesty engages to maintain the unity of the catholic religion, the security of property, and the continuance of the existing laws and usages which have for so long a period of time, and in so indisputable a manner, preserved the power and honour of the Spanish nation; their highnesses conceive that they afford the most undoubted proof of their generosity, and their affection towards it, and their eagerness to return the ardent attachment which it bears towards them, by sacrificing, to the utmost extent of their

power, their individual and personal interests for the benefit of that nation, and by this present instrument to assent, as they already have assented in a particular treaty, to the renunciation of all their rights to the throne. They accordingly release the Spaniards from all their duties in this respect, and exhort them to consult the general interests of their country, by conducting themselves in a peaceable manner, and by looking for their happiness to the wise arrangements of the emperor Napoleon. The Spaniards may assure themselves that by their zeal to conform their conduct to those arrangements, they will give their prince and the two infants the strongest proof of their loyalty; in like manner as their royal highnesses give them the greatest example of their paternal affection, by renouncing all their rights, and sacrificing their own interests for the happiness of the Spaniards, the sole object of their wishes.—I THE PRINCE.—CARLOS.—ANTONIO.

Address of the Supreme Junta of the Government to Napoleon. Dated Madrid, 13th May, 1808.

Those who at critical and difficult periods are placed nearest the government, and who have at all times shewn themselves to be good and faithful subjects, can and ought to avow their sentiments when the welfare of their country requires it.—Convinced that the condition of Spain and all its concerns demand the closest connection with that political system of the empire which your majesty governs with so much glory, we consider that the greatest proof of kindness to the Spanish nation, which our sovereigns ever gave, is their having fixed their last determination on an immovable basis, and confirmed by a long series of political events.—Oh that there were no Pyrennees! This was the constant wish of good Spaniards; because there could be no Pyrennees, whenever the wants of each should be the same, when confidence should be returned again, and each of the two nations have received, in the same degree, the respect due to their independence and worth.—The interval which yet separates us from this happy moment cannot now be long. Your imperial majesty, who foresees every thing, and executes them still more swiftly, has chosen for the provincial government of Spain, a prince educated for the art of government in the great school of your majesty. He has succeeded in stilling the boldest storms by the moderation and wisdom of his measures. What have we not, therefore, to hope from his deeds, now that all Spaniards unite to devote to him that admiration to

which he has so many claims, and assist him in those labours which he applies in our service?—The Spanish monarchy shall resume the rank which belongs to it among the powers of Europe, as soon as it is united by a new family compact to its natural ally, whose power is so great. Whoever the prince may be, whom your majesty destines for us, chosen from your illustrious family, he will bring that security we so much need; but Spain can urge a plea which none of the other countries connected with your majesty can dispute.—The Spanish throne rises to a greater height. The consequences arising from its relations to France are of an importance commensurate with the extent of its possessions. It seems therefore that the throne itself calls for your majesty's eldest brother to govern it. On the other side, it is a happy presage that this arrangement, which nature has confirmed, so well corresponds with the sentiments of reverence and admiration with which the actions of this Prince, and the wisdom of his government, had inspired us.—The council of Castile, whose wisdom commanded their giving all the support to these principles which stood in their power, unites with the wish of the supreme junta. May God grant prosperity to your imperial and royal majesty!

Address of the City of Madrid to Murat, dated 15th May, 1808.

Monseigneur;—The city of Madrid has been informed, that its illustrious sovereigns have resigned the crown of Spain into the hands of the great emperor, and that the supreme junta of the government, as well as the council of Castile, have notified to his imperial and royal majesty their wishes for the well-being of this monarchy; since they think it is certain, that his imperial and royal majesty intends to place the said crown upon the head of his illustrious brother, Joseph Napoleon, king of Naples.—This city, monseigneur, distinguished for its love of, and obedience to its sovereign, and desirous of the happiness of the people whom it contains, cannot omit joining its homage to that of the supreme junta of the government, and of the council, and to request your highness will have the goodness to notify the same to his imperial and royal majesty, if your highness thinks proper.—The city avails itself of this opportunity to assure your highness of its respect and submission.

Napoleon's Proclamation making his Brother Joseph King of Spain. Dated, at Bayonne, 6th June, 1808.

Napoleon; by the grace of God, emperor of the French, king of Italy, protector of the confederacy of the Rhine, to all men,

to whom these presents shall come, sends greeting :—The junta of the state, the council of Castile, the city of Madrid, &c. &c. having notified to us by their addresses, that the well-being of Spain requires a speedy stop to be put to the provisional government, we have resolved to proclaim, and we do by these presents proclaim, our well-beloved brother Joseph Napoleon, the present king of Naples and Sicily, to be king of Spain and India.—We guarantee to the king of Spain the independence and integrity of his states in Europe as well as in Africa, Asia, and America; charging the lieutenant-general of the kingdom, the ministers, and the council of Castile to cause this proclamation to be expedited, and publicly announced, according to the usual custom, that none may plead ignorance hereof.—Given at our imperial palace at Bayonne, the 6th of June, 1808.

Arrival of King Joseph at Bayonne, 7th June, 1808.

His majesty king Joseph Napoleon arrived on the 7th inst. at eight o'clock, at Pau. As soon as the emperor was informed of it, he repaired from the castle of Marrac, to meet his serene brother. His majesty met the king two miles from Bayonne, and brought him in his carriage to Marrac, where he passed the evening. Her majesty the empress, attended by her ladies in waiting, met the king on the steps of the palace. Immediately afterwards, the deputation of the grandees of Spain, with the Duke del Infantado at their head, had the honour of being presented to king Joseph Napoleon, by his excellency, M. Azanza, minister of finance for the kingdom of Spain. The president of the deputation made the following speech to the king :—"Sire—we feel the most lively joy in presenting ourselves before your majesty. The presence of your majesty is necessary to the re-establishment of our country. The grandees of Spain have at all times distinguished themselves by their fidelity towards their sovereigns. Your majesty shall meet with the same integrity and the same fidelity towards your person. May your majesty be pleased to accept our homage with the same benignity of which you have given so many testimonies to your subjects of the kingdom of Naples."—To this his majesty answered :—"That he should devote himself altogether to the government of Spain : that all his endeavours should be employed to bring order into the finances; and re-organize the naval and military force; that Spain might rely upon the preservation of her rights; that he would rule only by virtue of the laws; and finally

that the grandees of Spain might be assured of his especial protection."—Messieurs Urquijo and Cevallos were then admitted to an audience with his majesty, who conferred with them a considerable time concerning the affairs of the kingdom.—The deputation of the council of Castile was afterwards introduced, and made the following speech :—"Sire—The council of Castile, the first of the supreme courts of justice of the Spanish nation, having at their head Don Manuel de Lardizabel, Don Joseph Colon, the eldest of the deputation, has the honour to offer its homage to your majesty, and to testify its especial joy at the happy and wished for accession to the throne of Spain of the serene brother of the great Napoleon, whose fame has eclipsed the glory of antiquity. Your majesty has merited his choice, and your serene person unites the sublime qualities which support and strengthen thrones.—Your majesty constitutes a part of the family destined by Providence to govern. The fame of your deeds has stretched itself over the Pyrenees, and spread over all Spain.—Noble Spaniards! indulge in hope. The Catholic worship shall not suffer the least wrong. It shall retain all its purity, and be the sole religion in the country. The laws, the lawful customs, the courts of justice, the clergy, the national colleges shall be maintained and ameliorated for the benefit of the church and state. The various orders of the kingdom, the necessary supports of every true monarchy, shall continue in the employment of their prerogatives. The poor shall be relieved. The integrity of Spain and the property of every one shall be inviolably respected.—These are the services which we expect from the known beneficence of your majesty. Such are the wishes which the council of Castile, under the present circumstances, forms. Heaven grant that these wishes may be fulfilled, and that your majesty may be the happiest monarch in the whole world!"—His majesty discoursed a considerable time with this deputation, concerning the various establishments of the kingdom. He remarked a great resemblance between the laws of Spain, and those of the kingdom of Naples.—The deputations of the council of the inquisition, of the Indies, and finances, were presented to the king of Spain.—His Majesty said to the deputies of the inquisition, that "he considered the worship of God as the basis of all morality, and of general prosperity; that other countries allowed of different forms of religion, but that he considered it as the felicity of Spain that she had but one, and that the true one."—His majesty answered

the council of the Indies, that "he should not consider America as a colony, but as an integral part of Spain, and that its welfare would be as dear to him as that of his European states."—His majesty answered the council of finances, that "he well knew he had much to effect in this branch; that the pay of the soldiers and sailors were several months in arrears, but that he hoped, with the help of his faithful Spaniards, that he should be able to provide a remedy for the evil."—The deputation of the military force of Spain with the Duke del Parque at its head, then addressed the king, who answered that he had confidence in the fidelity and attachment of the Spanish soldiery.—"I consider it (he added) an honour to be the first soldier of the army, and were it necessary, as in ancient times in your conflicts with the Moors, you should see me at your head, in every danger, advance to repel the unjust attacks of the eternal enemies of the continent. You may assure all who have served the state under my predecessors, that they shall enjoy their pay, pensions, titles, and emoluments; and that I pledge my honour to reward ancient services, as if they had been performed under my own government."—After this audience his majesty, at ten in the evening, repaired to his apartments, and supped with their majesties the emperor and empress.

Address of the Deputation of Spaniards at Bayonne, to the Spanish Nation.—Dated Bayonne, 6th June, 1808.

Dear Spaniards, beloved countrymen.—Your inhabitants, your cities, your power, and your property, are as dear to us as ourselves; and we wish to keep all of you in our eye, that we may be able to establish your security.—We, as well as yourselves, are bound in allegiance to the old dynasty—to her to whom an end has been put by that God-like Providence which rules all thrones and sceptres. We have seen the greatest states fall under the guidance of this rule, and our land alone has hitherto escaped the same fate.—An unavoidable necessity has now overtaken our country, and brought us under the protection of the invincible emperor of France.—We know that you will regard our present situation with the utmost consideration, and we have accordingly, in this conviction, been uniformly conciliating the friendship to which we are tied by so many obligations. With what admiration must we see the benevolence and humanity of his imperial and royal majesty outstep our wishes—qualities which are even more to be admired than his great power! He has desired

nothing else, than that we should be indebted to him for our welfare. Whenever he gives us a sovereign to reign over us in the person of his magnanimous brother Joseph, he will consummate our prosperity.—As he has been pleased to change our old system of laws, it becomes us to obey, and to live in tranquility: As he has also promised to re-organize our financial system, we may hope that then our naval and military power will become terrible to our enemies; national credit will be maintained; the chains which fetter our commerce will be broken; our agricultural resources will receive similar improvement. Lastly, knowing your attachment to your religion, and the uprightness of your character, no change will be made in your worship. He assures you, that you, as your forefathers have done, shall enjoy the holy catholic religion, as the same is permitted in all the kingdoms under his dominion.—And what is the return which the great emperor of the French requires from you, and from the whole nation, for such important blessings?—that you remain peaceable; that you watch over the interests of your households and your families; that you do not blindly give up yourselves to that madness which is inseparable from rebellion and insurrection, that you receive the improvement of your lot with becoming confidence, whereby you will experience the government of a worthy monarch, who will watch over you like a father, and whose happiness is inseparable from yours, and of which his subjects will reap the benefit.—Spaniards, think upon yourselves, your families, and your children! What can you expect from rebellion and anarchy? Think on the benefits you enjoy, and are likely to enjoy—a continuance of the blessings enjoyed by your forefathers, with the redress of every thing of which they had cause to complain!—Honest agriculturists, who know the sweets of domestic comforts:—industrious mechanics, who fill the cities, you know what is dear to your hearts—merchants and manufacturers who owe your existence to your industry and diligence—citizens of all classes who owe so much to the protection of the laws—let all keep in view in what misery you will be involved if you suffer yourselves to be misled by those who wish to profit by your animosities!—One false step will deprive you of all! What can you hope to receive in return for so great a hazard? Can any thing induce you to resist the powers which reign over you, or to abjure the wholesome safeguard of the laws?—Anarchy is the greatest curse

that God can bring upon a people—while it prevails, it breaks down, burns, annihilates, and loosens every thing—the best people, in such circumstances, are generally the greatest sufferers. This state of things is as ungovernable as the waves of the sea.—Let us recollect the ties that bind us together as one people; that we have always fought under the same standard! Ah! how dreadful is civil war; For this century past Spain has enjoyed tranquillity—Why change the scene, and turn away from our fraternal advice?—No man doubts Spanish bravery. You can do wonders. But, without system, and without leaders, your efforts would be in vain. The most numerous bands of undisciplined men dwindle before a regular army, like chaff before the wind.—We have been placed in a most critical situation, but we now present you with a new and well-organized government, which secures the liberty, the rights, and the property, of every individual. This was to be expected of the invincible Napoleon, who has been occupied in matters that relate to our happiness, and who has shewn himself anxious to deserve well of our country by becoming her restorer. Let us throw no obstacles in the way of the great benefits which will result from our new union. Thus you will fulfil the most ardent wishes of his imperial highness the lieutenant general of the kingdom (Murat), of the Junta, and of the council of Castile—the highest powers in the nation. Thus also will you deserve the countenance and protection of Him in whose mighty and benevolent hand is our lot.—May heaven, which has hitherto guarded our country, incline you to repose your confidence in these our councils.”

Proclamation by the Superior Junta of the Government. Dated 7th June, 1808.

Spaniards,—The superior Junta of the government, consisting of the first magistrates of the nation, this day assembled, address you, in order to remove the errors which the evil-disposed and the ignorant endeavour to make you believe and cherish.—Wretched errors which might produce incalculable evils, if the supreme authority did not hasten to destroy them in the birth.—The Junta confident that those who at all times, and on all occasions, have listened with respect to the voice of their magistrates, will not less incline their ear, and display submission, when the question is for them, either to secure their prosperity for ever, by uniting themselves with the first authorities of the state, or to labour for the destruction of their native land,

by lending themselves to those commotions, into which the eternal enemies of the glory and prosperity of Spain seek to throw them.—At a moment when in Spain, a country so highly favoured by nature, but impoverished, exhausted, and disgraced in the eyes of all Europe, by the defects and misrule of its government, the period of its complete annihilation was approaching; when the very efforts which had been made for the renewal of its debilitated powers, had only served to aggravate its disasters, and to plunge it in new misfortunes; when, in short, no longer any hope remained, Providence had presented us with the means, not only of averting the destruction of our country, but even of raising it to a degree of prosperity and splendour, which it never reached even in the most illustrious periods of its history. By one of those political revolutions which amaze those only who are inattentive to the progress of events, the house of Bourbon saw itself driven from those thrones which it possessed in Europe, except that of Spain, the only one which it still retained. After having reduced the nation to the last stage of weakness and decay, deprived of that support which they had hitherto derived from the other branches of their family, those relations could not be maintained which had before united them with France; it became impossible for the Bourbons to maintain themselves on a throne, from which all the intervening changes of the political system obliged them to descend: the mightiest prince in Europe has received the abdication of the Bourbons, not to incorporate your territory with his own kingdom, which is already so extensive, but to establish the Spanish monarchy on a new basis, thus employing his irresistible power, for the purpose of operating those wholesome reforms which we have long wished for. It is with this view that he has summoned the deputies of the cities of the provinces, and of the state councils, into his illustrious presence, in order to consult them with regard to those fundamental laws which must form the security of sovereign authority, and of the fidelity of the subjects. He will place the crown of Spain on the head of a noble-minded prince, who will know how to attach to himself all hearts, by the worth of his character; he will exert means which no other man has in his power, and soon place Spain in that rank from which she has fallen by the weakness alone of those princes who have hitherto governed her.

(To be continued.)